

Where Is My Car?: Understanding “Place” Words

Understanding words that tell where things are helps your child:

- Increase vocabulary with position words such as: in, on, under, near
- Identify locations of objects

Ideas to try with your child:

- Pick a favorite small toy such as a car and ask your child to place it somewhere specific using position words. Say: “Put your car **in** the laundry basket. Move the car **next to** your chair. Put the car **under** your foot.”
- Pretend a baby doll is hurt. Use small pieces of paper or cloths as bandages to be placed on the ‘ouchie.’ Say: “Your baby doll hurt her leg. Put a bandage **on** her leg **under** her knee. Or, “Your baby has a cut **near** her eye. Put a bandage **above** her eye.”

If your child is struggling:

- Read the story We’re Going on A Bear Hunt by Michael Rosen. This is a classic book and can be found in most libraries and bookstores. Many position words such as **over**, **under** and **around** are introduced in a fun way in this book.
- The book is based on a song. Here is a link for free lyrics to this silly song about position words.
www.drjean.org/html/cds_f/silly_lyrics1.html

Going further:

- Have your child hide a ball (or any small toy) in her room. Then ask her for clues to help you find it. Ask: “Is it **near** your bed? Is it **behind** the door? Is it **below** the shelf?” Take turns with hiding and asking to give her practice identifying locations.
- Look for books that are full of positional words: Rosie’s Walk by Pat Hutchins, or Guess How Much I Love You? by Sam McBratney.



Washington State Department of

Early Learning



The WA State Department of Early Learning and the Richland School District believes that parents, families, and caregivers are young children’s best teachers. This resource guide, part of *Strong Foundations for School: Resource Guides for Parents of Young Children*, highlights a key developmental skill for **children ages 3-4 years** that parents can help improve at home.

Adapted from *WA State Early Learning and Development Guidelines, 2012*: “Understand words that tell where things are (such as behind, under, in, on). Use these words to identify locations.” *Learning About My World, Ages-3-4 years*, pg. 64